

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior listings of claims presented in the application.

Claim 1 (currently amended) An interlabial pad comprising:

an absorbent body for absorbing liquid;

a first sheet forming a surface side sheet configured contacting a body, the first sheet covering a first face side of the absorbent body, and the first sheet having a permeable property for liquid;

a second sheet independent from the first sheet contacting a second face side opposite to the first face side of the absorbent body and forming a back face side sheet configured to be positioned away from the body, the second sheet including a plurality of sheet pieces, ~~each partially overlapping another sheet piece over a range of 5 to 15 mm;~~ at least one seam part of the second sheet formed by overlapping the plurality of sheet pieces over one another, and

the second sheet being formed of either a water disintegrable material or a biodegradable material and having at least one seam part as a longitudinal seam part extending along a central line portion of the second sheet in a longitudinal direction of the absorbent body, wherein

the second sheet contacts the second face side of the absorbent body along the region of the second sheet having the longitudinal seam part, and

the second sheet disperses into a plurality of sheet pieces by separating at the seam part when discarded by flushing; and

~~an absorbent body for absorbing liquid, the absorbent body being disposed between the surface side sheet and the back face side sheet;~~

a junction joining the surface side sheet and the back face side sheet at a peripheral edge of the absorbent body, the absorbent body being enclosed thereby between the surface side sheet and the back face side sheet;

~~at least one seam part of the second sheet formed by overlapping the plurality of sheet pieces over one another, the seam part including:~~

~~a longitudinal seam part extending in a longitudinal direction over an entire length of the interlabial pad, crossing over the second sheet from an edge to another edge of the second sheet, and~~

~~an adhesive agent applied between the sheet pieces at the longitudinal seam part along a longitudinal central line along the longitudinal direction;~~

~~wherein one of the plurality of sheet pieces, which overlaps another one of the plurality of sheet pieces at the longitudinal seam part and which covers a side of the other sheet piece that is closest to the longitudinal central line of the interlabial pad, is positioned at the absorbent body side of the second sheet, and wherein the sheet pieces are each formed of either a water disintegrable material or a biodegradable material to enable separation of the second sheet along the longitudinal seam part and the along the junction joining the surface side sheet and the back face side sheet so that the second sheet may be dispersed into the plurality of sheet pieces when discarded by flushing.~~

a mini-sheet piece formed of either a water disintegrable material or a biodegradable material, the mini-sheet piece being adhered to the back face side sheet at the junction of the surface

side sheet, and the back face side sheet being provided at a peripheral edge of the absorbent body, forming a pocket between the mini-sheet piece and the back face side sheet, wherein a finger of a user may be inserted into the pocket,

wherein the seam part of the second sheet comprises at least one of the following features:

i) an outer surface of the seam part is made uneven through an emboss process;

ii) an outer surface of the seam part is made uneven by adhering a hydrophilic nonwoven fabric to the outer surface;

iii) the seam part is formed by a folded back portion of the back side face sheet, such that the back side face sheet overlaps itself;

iv) the seam part is formed by partial, mutual overlapping of small sheet pieces of the back side face sheet, wherein perforation-like slits are formed in the overlapping small sheet; or

v) the seam part is formed by partial, mutual overlapping of small sheet pieces of the back side face sheet, wherein the overlapping pieces are adhered together by an adhesive agent applied between the small sheet pieces, and wherein a part of the small sheet piece at least in a vicinity of an end portion of the small sheet piece is left free of any adhesive agent.

Claims 2-5 (canceled).

Claim 6 (currently amended): The interlabial pad according to Claim 1[[[:]],

wherein the seam part further includes a lateral seam part extending in a lateral direction and crossing over the longitudinal seam part of the interlabial pad,3 and

~~a sheet piece, which overlaps another sheet piece at the lateral seam part and covers a side that becomes a dorsal side when the interlabial pad is fitted between labia, is positioned at the absorbent body side.~~

Claims 7- 9 (canceled).

Claim 10 (previously presented): A packaging body for individually packaging an interlabial pad, comprising:

a packaging sheet; and

an interlabial pad according to claim 1;

wherein the interlabial pad is covered by the packaging sheet; and

wherein the packaging sheet is provided with a continuous or discontinuous parting zone that is parted by actions of water, along which the packaging sheet is separated into a plurality of small sheet pieces after the packaging sheet is discarded in a toilet.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The packaging body for individually packaging an interlabial pad according to Claim 10;

wherein the packaging sheet is a liquid impermeable sheet with an impermeable property against liquid.

Claims 12-22 (canceled).

Claim 23 (currently amended): The interlabial pad according to Claim 1, further comprising a folded portion at which the second sheet is folded face to face~~another sheet piece is folded,~~

~~wherein the sheet piece and the other sheet piece is attached when the interlabial pad is folded in two during use, the other sheet piece being folded inwardly, the end of the sheet piece overlapping the other sheet piece at the folded portion.~~

Claims 24 - 25 (canceled).

Claim 26 (previously presented): The interlabial pad according to claim 1, wherein the adhesive agent is applied in the range of 1 to 20g/M².

Claim 27 (canceled).

Claim 28 (new) The interlabial pad according to claim 1, wherein the seam part further includes a first lateral seam part and a second lateral seam part spaced apart from each other along the longitudinal seam part of the second sheet, both lateral seam parts extending in a lateral direction and crossing over the longitudinal seam part of the interlabial pad.